

SENATE BILL 162

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1,
Chapter 4 and Title 49, relative to use of American
Indian symbols, images, and names.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the
following as a new section:

§ 1-4-405.

(a) The general assembly recognizes that in recognition and in honor of the
American Indian heritage and tradition in Tennessee, many Tennessee institutions, both
public and private, have elected to acknowledge admirable characteristics of American
Indians and to reflect a positive outlook and recognition upon the contributions and the
heritage of American Indians in Tennessee by the honor of selecting symbols, mascots,
and names. Such symbols, mascots, and names are chosen in recognition of the area's
heritage and to honor and respect the heritage of American Indians and their
contributions to our citizens and our state.

(b) No state agency has the authority to prohibit or impair in any way the right of
any public or private institution to continue to honor American Indians and the heritage of
such institution through the use of American Indian symbols, names, and mascots.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring
it.